

CONFIDENTIAL

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Friday - 16 April 1971

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1. [] Talked to Wilfred Rommel, Assistant Director for Legislative Reference, OMB, who said he had no objection to our sending to Chairman Hanley, Subcommittee on Employee Benefits, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, our proposed letter and attachments explaining our concern about proposed legislation to ensure the privacy of Federal employees. Rommel said he had no objection to our forwarding the material in question provided we omit therefrom a copy of a letter he had written last year on the subject in connection with the Ervin bill (S. 782). Rommel indicated OMB fully supported our position and said that he had mentioned the matter to Roger Jones of OMB and that we could deal with Victor Zafra regarding further developments.

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2. [] Received a call from Joan Spalding, in the office of Representative Ogden Reid, who said the Congressman would like a car to pick him up at his home on Tuesday and bring him to the Headquarters building for breakfast with the Director. I told her this would be arranged.

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3. [] Talked with Mr. David Abshire, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, about the Case bill on Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty (see Memo for Record for details).

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4. [] Carl Marcy, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, called to inquire about a memorandum which he said Secretary Rogers circulated among the Foreign Relations Committee members at a 9 February 1971 hearing. According to Marcy this memorandum explained "what was going on in south Laos, the support being given, and what the Thais are doing." He said the Secretary had indicated the memorandum had been prepared "by another agency" and could not be left with the Committee. Marcy said Messrs. Lowenstein and Moose were interested in seeing this memorandum before their departure on Monday and asked if I would look into it and call him back.

After checking with Mr. Joseph Wolf, Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, State Department, I advised Marcy that Wolf had informed me the paper in question had not been prepared by the Agency but was in fact a State paper and Wolf suggested Marcy contact him on it. Marcy thanked me and said he would get in touch with Wolf.

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able."

In other Senate developments on the war yesterday: -

• Secretary of State William P. Rogers said he wouldn't declassify a Feb. 9 secret briefing in which he outlined to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the aims of the U.S.-backed South Vietnamese

incursion into Laos. Sens. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) and J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) said a comparison of these aims with what actually occurred would prove that the Laos operation, far from being the success claimed by the administration, failed of achieving many key objectives.

• Symington, in a Senate speech, defended television reporting of the Laos operation against administration criticism. "Television was not responsible for the abandon-

ment of a single South Vietnamese position (in Laos) or the shooting down of a single American helicopter," said the Missouri senator. "But the positions were abandoned and the helicopters were shot down.

"Would any reasonable person suggest that this should not have been reported to the American people, or that it should have been reported as a victory?"

• Sen. William Saxbe (R-Ohio), just back from a Eu-

rope-Asia tour as a member of the Armed Services Committee, said visiting Saigon and surrounding areas convinced him that the South Vietnamese in fact inflicted very heavy casualties on the North Vietnamese in the Laos operation, and that U.S. gunships were knocking out trucks on the Ho Chi Minh Trail now at a terrific rate—helped in part by sensors planted in the ground during the Laos operation to help guide electronic equipment.

Saxbe said he was surprised at the degree of disengagement of U.S. troops already evident. He said his son—in combat there, who had criticized American involvement in a letter last summer—"thinks the South Vietnamese are coming on strong" and thinks allied forces "are doing a terrific job." Saxbe said he still strongly believes the United States must get out as soon as possible.

The Foreign Relations Committee begins hearings on var-

ious pullout resolutions next week. Secretary Rogers had been invited to attend April 27, but aides said he "is unlikely to appear" until he returns in May from SEATO and CENTO meetings overseas.

Another set of hearings on Indochina was announced yesterday by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). His Senate Subcommittee on Refugees will hold hearings next Wednesday and Thursday on war-related civilian problems.

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25X1 11. [] Met with Mr. James Lowenstein, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, and received from him a copy of the amended itinerary (which at best is still tentative) of his trip to the Far East beginning Monday, 19 April. I also picked up from Mr. Lowenstein several documents concerning Soviet aid to third countries which will not be needed by the Committee during his absence from the country. These documents will be returned to Mr. Lowenstein upon his return for completion of the draft paper he is doing for the Committee on the subject of Soviet aid.

25X1 12. [] Met with Mr. William P. Shattuck, Counsel, House Committee on Judiciary, and reviewed with him a private claim bill for Captain Charles A. Aycock introduced by Representative Henderson (D., N. Car.). In brief, Mr. Shattuck advised that there is only a single precedent that he can look to to support such a measure. He is, however, giving the bill routine handling and forwarded a request to the Department of Army, under date of 31 March, for a report on the bill. He agreed that he probably will not need a formal report from the Agency and will keep me advised of progress on the bill.

25X1 13. [] Received a call from Mrs. Gwen Stand, in the office of Representative Ogden R. Reid (R., N. Y.), who said that the office no longer needed the information requested concerning Vietnamese pacification reported in the New York Times of 7 April. See Journal of 15 April 1971.

25X1 14. [] Met with Mr. Don Henderson, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, and discussed with him Committee staff assignments. He noted in part that Mr. Phillip Trimble and Mr. David Keaney are new members of the staff and one or both may eventually be working with Jim Lowenstein and Richard Moose. He also mentioned that he himself may be taking a trip to Europe possibly into one or more of the Bloc countries late next month. If so, he would appreciate some Agency briefing before his departure. He will keep me advised as his plan develop.

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5. [] I told Frank Slatinshek, House Armed Services Committee staff, that he might be interested in the fact Representative Paul McCloskey would be appearing on the television program "Face the Nation" this Sunday.

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6. [] Accompanied Messrs. Carl Duckett, Brandwein, [] to a briefing of Mr. James Woolsey, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, on the Soviet strategic defensive threat.

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7. [] Met with Mr. Frank Slatinshek, Assistant Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, and discussed briefly with him present Agency thinking on physical security safeguards in the storage of classified documents. In brief, it is his feeling that present Committee procedures and facilities are adequate for the Committee's needs.

I briefed Mr. Slatinshek on ChiCom nuclear facilities in Szechwan; current situation in Egypt; Soviet delivery of MIG and SU-7 aircraft to Egypt; and Soviet testing of SS-NX-8.

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8. [] Met with Mr. Ralph Preston, House Appropriations Committee staff, who told me that a request is pending with Chairman Mahon for authorization for a European survey trip for Representatives Minshall (R., Ohio) and Rhodes (R., Ariz.) which would include himself and Pete Murphy. The travel is scheduled for the last week of May.

I briefed Mr. Preston on ChiCom nuclear facilities in Szechwan; current situation in Egypt; Soviet delivery of MIG and SU-7 aircraft to Egypt; and Soviet testing of SS-NX-8.

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9. [] In response to a call from Mrs. Judy Morrison, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, delivered the transcript of the Director's testimony on Laos of October 28, 1969 to the Committee for review. The transcript was picked up in midafternoon and returned to the Agency for safekeeping.

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10. [] Met with Mr. Arthur Kuhl, Chief Clerk, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and reviewed with him some of the present Agency thinking on physical security safeguards in the storage of classified documents. In brief, Mr. Kuhl noted that the Committee has a chronic difficulty in that the Sergeant at Arms office has refused request for additional space for the Committee's use. Mr. Kuhl agreed that I should talk to Jim Lowenstein and offer to provide safekeeping for the various documents. [] said to third countries which will not be in use while Mr. Lowenstein is out of the country.

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